

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-06

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DRAFTED BY AF/W:MGWYGANT:MR

APPROVED BY AF/W:JLLOUGHRAN

AF/EPS:LJWHITE

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R 081933Z JAN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY COTONOU

INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 003962

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, DM, NI, BEXP

SUBJECT:CURRENT STATUS OF CEMENT AND SUGAR REFINARY
PROJECTS FOR DAHOMEY

REF: COTONOU 00012

1. AF/W HAS RECENTLY CONTACTED ALL PARTIES WHICH HAD
EXPRESSED INTEREST IN DAHOMEY CEMENT AND SUGAR REFINERY
PROJECTS INCLUDING EXIM, LANG, MCKEE, IBRD AND LOEB
RHOADES TO ASCERTAIN CURRENT STATUS THESE PROJECTS AS
SEEN FROM WASHINGTON PERSPECTIVE. FOLLOWING REPRESENTS
OUR ASSESSMENT CURRENT STATE OF PLAY.

2. SUGAR REFINERY: EXIM MAINTAINS SOME INTEREST IN
POSSIBLE PARTICIPATION BUT HAS ASKED DAHOMEAN EMBASSY
WASHINGTON TO FURNISH FURTHER INFORMATION. BANK WISHES
TO KNOW SPECIFICS OF NIGERIAN PARTICIPATION AND IS ALSO
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CONCERNED THAT PROJECT AS PRESENTED BY LANG/MRGD CONTAINS

TOO MUCH INFRASTRUCTURE. EXIM HAS ALSO ASKED DAHOMEANS FOR CLARIFICATION OF NEW "MARXISM-LENINISM" ECONOMIC POLICY. ROBERT HOWARD OF LANG, CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA SAYS HIS COMPANY REMAINS INTERESTED IN PROJECT, BUT FEELS KEY ITEM NOW IS FINDING ADEQUATE FINANCING. LANG IS

UNDERSTANDABLY CONCERNED ABOUT RECENT LEFTWARD SHIFT BY MRGD AND ALSO QUERIES SIGNIFICANCE OF "MARXISM-LENINISM" COMMITMENT. LANG AGREES IT NOW UP TO DAHOMEANS TO ANSWER VARIOUS QUESTIONS POSED BY EXIM. IBRD HAS INDICATED ONLY GENERAL INTEREST IN SUGAR PROJECT. IT HAS NOT RECEIVED REQUEST FOR FINANCING, AND HAS VOLUNTEERED NOTHING ON THIS SUBJECT.

3. CEMENT PROJECT: C.J. PAWLOWSKI OF MCKEE TOLD DESK OFFICER MCKEE HAS CONTINUED INTEREST IN CEMENT PROJECT BUT IS AWAITING MRGD RESPONSE TO ITS MOST RECENT PROPOSAL (OCT. 17 LETTER TO PLAN DIRECTOR TAGNON). MCKEE FEELS THAT FURTHER TECHNICAL ANALYSIS OF LIMESTONE INCLUDING TEST BORING IS ESSENTIAL. THIS POSITION WAS MADE CLEAR TO MRGD AT LEAST SIX MONTHS AGO WITH LATTER AGREEING TO CONDUCT BORINGS. MRGD, TO MCKEE'S KNOWLEDGE, HAS NOT ACCOMPLISHED ANY OF THIS TECHNICAL WORK. PAWLOWSKI SAID HE WOULD BE WILLING TO RETURN TO COTONOU FOR FURTHER DISCUSSIONS, IF SUCH A VISIT, "WOULD BE MEANINGFUL" I.E. HE FELT MRGD MUST SHOW GREATER RESPONSIVENESS TO MCKEE PROPOSAL. LOEB RHOADES IS STILL INTERESTED IN POSSIBLE FINANCING OF CEMENT PROJECT (WITH EXIM PARTICIPATION) BUT TALK WITH STOW OF THAT BANK INDICATES NO RECENT FOCUS BY LOEB RHOADES ON CEMENT PROJECT. AS WITH SUGAR PROJECT, IBRD MAINTAINS ONLY GENERAL INTEREST AND HAS NOT BEEN APPROACHED REQUESTING POSSIBLE FINANCING. (FYI. IBRD DAHOMEY DESK OFFICER AGUIRRE-SACASA SAID BANK WILL BE SENDING TEAM TO DAHOMEY IN APPROXIMATELY ONE MONTH FOR REGULAR ECONOMIC SURVEY: HE EXPECTS TO BE PART OF TEAM. END FYI). KISSINGER

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